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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Medical Information

REPORT

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REFERENCES

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The only drugs of which a reasonable supply is available are those which were in general usage about 30 years ago. There is, on the other hand, an acute shortage of modern drugs with the exception of Russian streptomycin and penicillin. The most important shortages are of:

   a. Antibiotics;

   b. Antihistamines;

   c. Antispasmodics;

   d. Antituberculosis drugs; and

   e. Rimifon.

2. Occasionally, small quantities of the rarer drugs are made available, but there is no continuing supply. In the autumn of 1952, for example, a quantity of Digitalis type drugs was distributed by the Government, but before that time (and again now) there were practically no drugs obtainable for the relief of heart failures.

3. Vitamin tablets and capsules are presently available as follows:

   a. Vitamin A, not available except in combination with Vitamin D;

   b. Vitamin B, Russian-made supplies are available;

   c. Vitamin C, tablets are scarce but capsules are readily obtainable;

   d. Vitamin D, Russian-made supplies are available;

   e. Vitamin E, unobtainable; and

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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f. Vitamins A and D, capsules of [redacted] origin are available. 25X1

Generally speaking, the Russian vitamin products are effective, although they are crude compared with their Western equivalents.

4. In August 1952, the Bulgarian press announced that the drug Rimifon (or Neotoben) was about to be produced in large quantities in Bulgaria under the trade name of Tebecid. In recent weeks, nevertheless, [redacted] Rimifon has been sold for five leva per tablet on the black market (official fixed rate of exchange is 19.04 leva for £1). 25X1

5. Tuberculosis is at present causing much anxiety in Bulgaria; overcrowding rather than undernourishment is blamed for the high incidence of this disease.[1]

6. There were many cases of scarlet fever in Sofia during the closing months of 1952. The usual treatment consists of injections of Russian-made penicillin.[2]

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1. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] one or two cases in which tuberculosis has been contracted by direct contact ("caused by people sitting huddled together and coughing into each other's faces"). We gather this is particularly bad. 25X1

2. [redacted] 25X1

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